

PINK+DOLPHIN

LEGENDS AT OUR CRAFT.

May 6, 2016

The Honorable David Ryu
Los Angeles City Councilman
City of Los Angeles
200 South Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA.

Re: Runyon Canyon Charitable Gift

Dear Councilman Ryu:

It has been a week since we met and to date there has been no affirmative response to my email sent Monday, May 2nd, 2016. As well, there have been no discussions that have continued to amicably resolve the matter at hand. At this juncture, I shall readily admit that I am both disappointed and increasingly frustrated as the growing sentiment amongst myself, partners, team, and community leaders is that there is no real desire to address this in a manner that honors my work and clear dedication to this City with the two years of effort I have undertaken in seeing a well intended, positive project for all Angelenos, come to fruition. The discussions to date also dishonor the many Angelenos of color that simply aren't wanted at the Canyon and being asked to "walk away" as a means of demonstrating my capacity of being the 'bigger man' is simply off putting and disrespects me and other people of color that residents in that community "just don't want" to see there as they believe that a basketball court will simply have them overrun with minorities of a particular sort. This is both ridiculous and offensive at the highest levels.

The feelings of anger on this matter are deep and heartfelt by many that are African American, Caucasian, Jewish, Latino, and so on because right is right and wrong is wrong. What began as just a beautification project that included a basketball court that I envisioned would be used by families, kids, young men, older men, women, youth groups, and so on is now at the center of a discussion that we shouldn't be having for both moral reasons and those that run to fulfilling ones obligations as agreed. It is sad that politics and bigotry have perverted such a simple thing as a gift to the community and a park that needs help of renovation.

At this juncture, my hopes and expectation that your office would work with me in a cooperative manner as you suggested on prior occasion are quickly diminishing leaving options of having a robust and positive discourse on the matter at hand increasingly improbable. I now feel an even greater responsibility to the diverse residents of Los Angeles who are simply not wanted by closed minded tax payers who feel as though Runyon Canyon is for the enjoyment of their small immediate community alone. This is unacceptable. I intend to exercise every means of resolution at my disposal to arrive at an outcome I and others believe is fair to my efforts to date, reflects the agreement I have had with the City for over two years and have worked in good faith, and respects all Angelenos.

Councilman, we have had several discussions, have met, and have traded correspondence and to date nothing has materialized that gives me any confidence that we are any closer to the amicable resolution I had hoped and you stated that you wanted. Now is the time for action, to either one end or another.

I send this letter in working to be transparent and fair and hope you and your senior staff appreciate the gravity of the matter at hand from my vantage point.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Neima', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Neima

10-10-10